
DC Fire & EMS Special Operations: Personal Safety Guidelines

I. All Provider Levels



Note Well: *Safeguarding your well-being as a pre-hospital health care provider is critical. Scene size-up is the first part of ensuring your safety - surveying the scene to determine if there are any threats to your own safety, the safety of your fellow crew members, the patients or bystanders. **Failure to be ever vigilant for the potential of danger at each and every call could result in serious injury or even death to you, your partner or others***

II. Hazardous Materials

1. Identify possible hazards
 - A. Placards.
 - B. "Hazardous Materials, The Emergency Response Handbook," published by the United States Department of Transportation.
 - C. Janes Chem-Bio book.
2. Utilize protective equipment
 - A. Hazardous materials suits.
 - B. Air purifying respirators (APR).
 - i. For riot control agents only.
 - C. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (Specialized Units Only).
3. Hazardous materials incidents are controlled by the specialized haz-mat teams.
 - A. Work under the direction of EMS Supervisor (EMS-16) or the Incident Commander for specific instructions



Note Well: *EMS Providers are to provide emergency care only after the scene is safe and patient contamination limited.*

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III. Rescue

1. Identify and reduce potential life threats.
 - A. Electricity.
 - B. Fire.
 - C. Explosion.
 - D. Hazardous materials.
2. Utilize protective equipment.
 - A. Turn-out gear.
 - B. Puncture-proof gloves.
 - C. Helmet.
 - D. Eye protection.
 - E. Traffic safety vests.
 - F. GO kit.
3. Request for dispatch of rescue teams for extensive/technical rescue.
4. Work under the direction of EMS supervisor or the Incident Commander for specific instructions.